THE GENERIC NAMES SPEOTHOS AND ICTICYON.

In Mr. Oldfield Thomas's important paper 'On various South American Mammals' (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. (8), XIII, pp. 345–363, March, 1914) he treats at some length the generic and subgeneric names of the South American Canidæ. After referring to the "extreme confusion" in which these names have "always been involved," he says: "The names *Speothos* (syn. *Icticyon*) for *venaticus* and *Chrysocyon* for *jubatus* are clearly settled, and do not need further reference" (*l. c.*, p. 351). On the next page he gives a list of the six generic names he considers valid, with their genotypes, in which *Icticyon* is omitted and *Speothos* stands: "*Speothos* . . . Bush-dogs. Type, *venaticus*." As, however, *Speothos* and *Icticyon* were both monotypic when founded, and the species referred to them were non-congeneric, it would seem that some "further reference" is necessary.

Speothos was founded by Lund in 1839.* After presenting a résumé of its differential characters he says:

"Cette espèce peut donc être séparée du reste du genre des Chiens avec le même raison qu'on a séparé les Guépards des outres Chats, pour former un petit groupe à part, groupe pour lequel je propose le nom de *Speothos*, ainsi que l'espèce fossile du Brésil, celui de *Speothos pacivorus*, d'apres l'animal dont il faisait sa principale nourriture (*Celogenys laticeps*)." In his accompanying list of the mammals of the Rio das Velhas drainage (*l. c.*, p. 232) *Speothos pacivorus* is No. 24. The genus *Speothos* and its single species were later† fully described and the skull figured.

Icticyon was first proposed in 1843,‡ four years after *Speothos* was founded, with *Icticyon venaticus* sp. nov. as the type and only species, and fully described and figured in 1845.§

As *Speothos* and *Icticyon* contained each only a single species when founded, *Icticyon venaticus* could not in any case be the type of *Speothos*, and until it is shown that *Speothos pacivorus* and *Icticyon venaticus* are congeneric, *Icticyon* and not *Speothos* will remain the proper generic name for the Bush-dogs, with *pacivorus* as genotype of *Speothos* and *venaticus* as genotype of *Icticyon*. —*J. A. Allen.*

LUMINOUS EARTHWORMS IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

During the month of May, 1914, one of us (H. S. B.) while spading for a garden at his residence in the northeast section of Washington, D. C., turned up several specimens of a luminous earthworm. These were quite near the surface, the earth being rather moist. Later in the month, in

*Lund, Coup-d'œil sur les espèces éteintes de Mammifères du Brésil; extrait de quelques mémoires presentés à l'Académie royale des Sciences de Copenhague.—Ann. des Sciences naturelles, sér. 2, Vol. XI, 1839, pp. 214–234. *Speothos*, p. 224.

† Kgl. Danske Vidensk. Selsk. Nat. og Math. Afhandl., XI, 1845, pp. 55–61, pl. xix, fig. 1, 2 (skull), pl. xlv. fig. 4–9 (teeth).

‡ Oversigt Kgl. Danske Vidensk. Selsk. Forhandl. for 1842 (1843), p. 80.

§ Kgl. Danske Vidensk. Selsk. Nat. og Math. Afhandl., XI, 1845, pp. 61–72, pl. xli (animal), pl. xliii, fig. 1–5 (skull).

the presence of both of us, a few more specimens were found in the same locality, but at a depth of 8 to 12 inches below the surface, the earth then being drier. Specimens were submitted to Prof. Frank Smith, of the University of Illinois, who very kindly examined them and reported that they were, in all probability, *Microscolex phosphoreus* Dugès, a species which has been reported from Florida, North Carolina, and probably Smith's Island, Virginia. Doctor Smith states that it is nearly world wide in its distribution near coasts.

The specimens taken were 20 to 30 mm. long, and from 1 to 2 mm. in diameter. The light, as usual in luminous organisms, was greenish yellow and was evidently given off by a secretion, a luminous mucus clung to the fingers and to the earth over which the worms had crawled, the glow lasting for only a few moments. The luminous material appeared to be secreted only when the worms were disturbed, suggesting the defensive nature of the property.

We have been able to find but one reference to luminosity in American terrestrial oligochetes, this being a short paper by Prof. George F. Atkinson, in the Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society, 1887, Vol. IV, Pt. II, who probably had the same species as that encountered by us. The possession of the luminous power by terrestrial annelids seems to be an interesting relic from their marine ancestry, as the luminosity of marine annelids is a well-known phenomenon. Walter (Trav. Soc. Nat. St. Petersbrg., C. R., 1909, Vol. 40, pp. 136–7) states that the luminosity of terrestrial oligochetes is produced by the secretion of hypodermal glands. In all there are 18 or 20 references in the literature to the production of light by earthworms.

—*F. Alex. McDermott* and *Herbert S. Barber.*

ON THE REMAINS OF AN APPARENTLY REPTILIAN CHARACTER IN THE COTINGIDÆ.

In examining the hinder aspect of the tarsus in *Carpodectes* under a 12× hand lens, the rather large oval scales will be seen to contain an apparently closed pore, reminding one of the femoral pores on certain lizards. The pores are more numerous and conspicuous on some specimens than on others, but a few are usually present. I have examined all the genera of the Cotingidæ accessible to me and find the following to possess this feature to a greater or less extent: *Porphyrolæma*, *Xipholena*, *Carpodectes*, *Lathria*, *Chirocylla*, *Tityra*, *Querula*, *Pyroderus*, *Cephalopterus*, *Calvifrons*, *Gymnoderus*, and *Chasmorhynchos*. I have not examined *Tijuca*, *Ornithion*, *Doliornis*, or *Hæmatoderus*.

Chirocylla has a most remarkable tarsus, in that on some of the scales the pits partake more of the nature of depressions and occasionally there are two such; even the scales on the sides of the tarsus and on the basal portion of the toes have such pit-like depressions or pores indicated. *Tityra*, also, is rather peculiar, as the pits are more strongly developed on the lower portion of the tarsus on the outer aspect.